

Message Text

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12

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00

SSO-00 USIE-00 CCO-00 INRE-00 PM-09 H-02 INR-10 L-03

NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 AID-20 IO-12 DPW-01

RSR-01 /128 W

----- 088259

O R 170900 Z MAY 73

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1790

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

USDEL JEC PARIS

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

AMCONSUL DANANG

AMCONSUL NHA TRANG

AMCONSUL BIEN HOA

AMCONSUL CAN THO

CINCPAC

DRUSSAG NKP RTAFB

COMUSMACTHAI

USDAO SAIGON

USDEL FPJMT SAIGON

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 SAIGON 8697

E./3. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT PINS MILI VS

SUBJECT: VIETNAM CEASEFIRE SITUATION REPORT MAY 17 1973

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

THIS REPORT SUMMARIZES ALL PERTINENT INFORMATION AVAILABLE TO
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THE EMBASSY AS OF 1800 MAY 17.

PART I: INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION OF CONTROL AND SUPERVISION
(ICCS)

61 ST PLENARY ILLUMINATES CONTINUING CANDEL/ INDO-
DEL VS POLDEL / HUNGDEL SPLIT

PART II: FOUR PARTY JOINT MILITARY TEAM/ MISSING IN ACTION
(FPJMT/ MIA)
JCRC MORTUARY TEAM TO VISIT HANOI MAY 18

PART III: MR 1: VIOLATIONS RISE TO 18. NEW C- F REGION II
POLDEL CHIEF TAKE MORE SOPHISTICATED APPROACH.
BUDDHA' S BIRTHDAY A FESTIVE OCCASION.

PART IV: MR 2: HEAVY CASUALTIES INFLICTED ON VC/ NVA IN
BINH DINH

PART V: MR 3. MILITARY ACTIVITY LIGHT. C- F REGION V
CANADIANS PREDICT CANADA WILL STAY IN ICCS

PART VI: MR4: HEAVY FIGHTING IN CHUONG THIEN. VC/ NVA
FORCES ON THE MOVE NEAR HONG NGU. ICCS
SEEKING TO UPGRADE DUC CO SITE.

PART I: INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION OF CONTROL AND SUPERVISION
(ICCS)

1. DISCUSSION CONCERNING TWO GVN COMPLAINTS WHICH INVOLVED
CAPTURED NVA SOLDIERS WAS THE FIRST ORDER OF BUSINESS AT THE
61 ST ICCS PLENARY MAY 16. IN ONE CASE THE MATTER WAS RE-
FERRED TO THE TPJMC FOR POSSIBLE RESOLUTION, AND IN THE OTHER
A CANDEL/ INDODEL REPORT WAS FORWARDED TO THE TPJMC.
2. ELEVEN INVESTIGATION REPORTS WERE CONSIDERED AND FOR-
WARDED TO THE TPJMC INCLUDING FIVE FROM REGION VII AND FOUR
FROM REGION III. IN THREE CASES, HUNGDEL FOR NO APPARENT
REASON DID NOT PARTICIPATE. POLDEL HUNGDEL IN TWO OTHER
CASES REFUSED TO PARTICIPATE BECAUSE TRAVEL IN NON ICCS
BOATS WAS INVOLVED. ONE CASE REVEALED TO CANDEL/ INDODEL
EMBARRASSMENT THAT AT TEAM LEVEL, CANDEL/ INDODEL HAD
INITIATED INVESTIGATION WITHOUT INFORMING HUNGDEL/ POLDEL
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AND COMMISSION DECIDED TO HAVE REINVESTIGATION. OTHER
REPORTS EFFECTED USUAL 2-2 SPLIT WITH CANDEL/ INDODEL CON-
DEMNING PRG, AND POLDEL / HUNGDEL SUBMITTING DIFFERENT
VIEWS. COMMENT: POLDEL REPS IN DEFENDING THEIR
BEHAVIOR TO EMBOFFS HAVE MORE THAN ONCE REFERRED TO CANDEL/
INDODEL FAILURE TO INFORM POLDEL/ HUNGDEL RE INVESTIGATION
ACTIVITIES. THIS IS FIRST VERIFIABLE CASE OF CANDEL/ INDODEL
LAXITY IN THAT RESPECT.

3. COMMISSION AGREED TO INVESTIGATE OMNIBUS GVN COMPLAINT
OF PRG VIOLATIONS MAY 10/11 IN LONG AN, CHUONG THIEN AND
PHU QUOC.

4. CANDEL PRESENTED " STATEMENT OF VIEWS/ FROM CANDEL REGION II TEAM DANANG WHICH COVERED ROUNDUP OF 12 GVN COMPLAINTS IN PERIOD MARCH 18 APRIL 7, AND SHOWS IN DETAIL POLDEL/ HUNGDEL OBSTRUCTIONISM AT THAT TIME. IN ELEVEN OF TWELVE CASES. HUNGDEL/ POLDEL REFUSED TO PARTICIPATE. IN TWELFTH CASE, HUNGDEL/ POLDEL AGREED TO INVESTIGATE BUT DID NOT PARTICIPATE BECAUSE OF DISAGREEMENT ON TIMING. CANDEL REQUESTED THAT STATEMENT BE FORWARDED TO TPJMC AND AFTER ACID HUNGDEL/ POLDEL COMMENTS RE " ONE-SIDED AND SLANDEROUS" CANDEL PRESENTATION, IT WAS AGREED TO FORWARD STATEMENT ALONG WITH ANY REBUTTAL COMMENTS WHICH HUNGDEL/ POLDEL ARE SURE TO MAKE.

5. IN FINAL BUSINESS, HUNGDEL READ STATEMENT CONCERNING INCIDENT WHICH OCCURRED MAY 13 AT 1540, 3.5 MILES NW KONTUM(MAP COORDINATES ZA9515) WHEN CREW OF ICCS CHOPPER SPOTTED FOUR SKYRAIDERS AND TWO UHI HELICOPTERS IN SAME CORRIDOR ENGAGED IN " BOMBING AND STRAFING OPERATIONS." ICCS HELICOPTER IMMEDIATELY TURNED BACK. CANDEL UNAWARE OF ANY SUCH INCIDENT. HUNGDEL REQUESTED INVESTIGATION OF THIS INCIDENT WHICH REPRESENTED " CEASEFIRE VIOLATION AND A DANGER TO ICCS AIR SAFETY. " COMMISSION AGREED TO INVESTIGATE.

PART II: FOUR PARTY JOINT MILITARY TEAM/ MISSING IN ACTION (FPJMT/ MIA)
AN EIGHT MAN US TEAM INCLUDING JCRC MORTUARY SPECIALISTS IS SCHEDULED TO TRAVEL TO HANOI MAY 18 TO VISIT CURRENT GRAVE SITES OF US DIED IN CAPTIVITY (DIC). AND HOPEFULLY TO
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DISCUSS WITH NORTH VIETNAMESE AUTHORITIES PROCEDURES FOR DISINTERMENT AND REPATRIATION OF REMAINS OF DIC. TEAM IS EXPECTED TO RETURN THE SAME DAY TO
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42/16
ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 RSR-01 IO-12 CIAE-00 DODE-00

NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 CCO-00 INRE-00 PM-09

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COMUSMACTHAI
USDAO SAIGON
USDEL FPJMT SAIGON

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 SAIGON 8697

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (T E X T)

IN COURSE OF ENSURING BATTLE, ARVN KILLED 53 ENEMY, CAPTURED AN 82 MM MORTAR, SIX B-40 ROCKETS, 3 B41 ROCKETS, 50 CKC RIFLES, 40 AK RIFLES, AND DESTROYED A VC BATTALION TRAINING CENTER AND A 105 MM ARTILLERY POSITION. REPORTEDLY ON RVNAF AIR ARTILLERY SUPPORT WAS EMPLOYED DURING FIGHTING. ONLY ARVN LOSSES
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REPORTED WERE TWO WIA.

2. OTHER TWO FIREFIGHTS IN PHU MY DISTRICT OCCURRED LATER IN DAY WITHIN SIX KMS RADIOUS OF SITE OF INITIAL BATTLE AND ALSO INVOLVED COMPANIES OF 40 TH REGIMENT. THESE CONTACTS ALSO REPORTEDLY RESULTED IN CASUALTY COUNTS HEAVILY FAVORING ARVN (VC: 29 KIA; ARVN: 1 KIA, 1 WIA). CONGEN NHA TRANG SUGGESTS THAT THE 40 TH REGIMENT MAY HAVE LAUNCHED A " PRE- EMPTIVE OPERATION" IN NORTHERN PHU MY.

3. FOR SIXTH TIME SINCE MAR 20 VC MINED RAILROAD IN PHU YEN, THIS TIME ON STRETCH 12 KMS SMYTH OF TUY AN DISTRICT TOWN. PRESSURE- DETONATED MINE EXPLODED DESTROYING TWO FLATCARS BEING PUSHED IN FRONT OF REPAIR TRAIN LOCOMOTIVE. LOCOMOTIVE NOT DAMAGED.

4. CANDEL TOLD POLOFF ICCS INVESTIGATION IN QUANG DUC ON MAY 15 WAS FIRST INVESTIGATION BY ICCS DALAT IN WHICH ALL CHIPS PARTICIPATED. HE WAS NOT HOPEFUL THAT INVESTIGATION WOULD " PROVE ANYTHING" EXCEPT THAT " SOMETHING DID TACK PLACE." WEEK' S DELAY IN INVESTIGATION CAUSED BY ARRANGING TRANSPORTATION. DALAT TEAM BROUGHT ALONG ITS OWN JEEP IN CARIBOU WHICH POLOFF BELIEVES WAS COMPLETELY UNNECESSARY.

5. C- F REGION III AT PLEIKU, WITH THE APPROACH OF THE RAINY SEASON, IS SEARCHING FOR ALTERNATE HELICOPTER LANDING SITE TO BEN HET ITSELF IN BEN HET AREA. PRG HAS TENTATIVELY AGREED TO DAK TO AS SUCH A SITE BUT WANTS GVN ASSURANCES THAT IT WILL NOT RPT NOT ATTACK DAK TO- BEN HE ROAD. ICCS IS APPROACHING GVN TPJMC AT PLEIKU FOR SUCH GUARANTEES.

6. ICCS PLEIKU HAS CONTINUED TO FLY LIAISON AND SUPPLY MISSIONS TO DUC CO IN AN EFFORT, IN COOPERATION WITH PRG, TO IMPROVE FACILITIES AT THAT SITE SO THAT POINT OF ENTRY TEAM CAN REDEPLOY. ON MAY 11, PA& E ACCOMPANIED BY ICCS FLEW TO DUC CO AND INSTALLED NEW WATER TANK, PUMP AND PIPING. ICCS WAS ALSO TO VISIT ON MAY 15 AND AGAIN ON MAY 21 OR 25.

7. BUDDHA' S BIRTHDAY: BUDDHA' S BIRTHDAY IS BEING CELEBRATED THROUGHOUT THE REGION, BUT NOWHERE MORE FESTIVELY THAN AT PHAN THIET WHERE, OUR POLOFF REPORTS, THERE WAS A FLOAT AND CONFIDENTIAL

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TORCHLIGHT PARADE ON EVENING OF NAY 16 AND AN EARLY MORNING PRAYER SERVICE IN MAIN SQUARE ON MAY 17 AT WHICH PRINCIPAL LOCAL MONKS MADE NON- CONTROVERSIAL SPEECHES IN PRAISE OF PEACE.

PART V: MR 3

1. COMMUNIST ACTIVITY IN MR 3 CONTINUED AT A VERY LOW LEVEL DURING THE 24- HOUR PERIOD ENDING 0800 HOURS 17 MAY. THERE WERE 14 COMMUNIST- INITIATED INCIDENTS REPORTED CONSISTING OF THREE ATTACKS BY FIRE (ABF), FIVE GROUND CONTACTS, FIVE MINE INCIDENTS AND ONE KIDNAPPING.

2. CANDIAN AND INDONESIAN MEMBERS OF REGION V ICCS RESIDENT IN BIEN HOA HAVE ATTACKED THE HUNGARIANS AND POLES FOR REFUSING TO ATTEND THE 8 TH ANNIVERSARY CEREMONY OF THE 18 TH ARVN DIVISION HELD YESTERDAY IN BIEN HOA. CANDEL EAD COL MORROW TOLD CONGEN THAT HE HAD WORDS WITH THE HEADS OF THE COMMUNIST DELEGATIONS OVER WHAT HE CALLED " RUDE" BEHAVIOR. MORROW SAID THAT BOTH DELEGATIONS USED " LAME" EXCUSES TO GET OUT OF ATTENDING. MORROW WAS UPSET BECAUSE THE COMMUNISTS WAITED UNTIL THE LAST MINUTE TO BOW OUT, CONTENDING THAT PRESSING BUSINESS IN SAIGON INTERVENED. INDODEL HEAD TOLD CONGEN THAT THE POLES AND HUNGARIANS HAVE A STANDING POLICY OF NOT ATTENDING FUNCTIONS ORGANIZED BY GVN MILITARY UNITS.

3. REGION V ICCS CANDIAN MEMBERS ARE PREDICTING THAT THEY WILL CONTINUE BEYOND THE END OF THE 60- DAY LOOK- SEE PERIOD. SEVERAL CANDIANS HAVE TOLD US IN THE LAST FEW DAYS THAT THEY EXPECT AN ANNOUNCEMENT FROM OTTAWA BEFORE THE END OF NEXT WEEK ADVISING THAT CANADA WILL CONTINUE WITH A REVIEW EACH SUCCEEDING 30 DAYS.

4. CANADIAN SOURCES ON THE BEN CAT ICCS TEAM COMPLAIN THAT THE GVN LIAISON OFFICIALS HAVE BEGUN PROMPTING WITNESSES IN A FAIRLY OBVIOUS WAY IN AN EFFORT TO INSURE THAT THEY TELL A CONSISTENT STORY.

PART VI: MR 4

1. VIOLENCE IN MR IV CONTINUED TO INCREASE MAY 16 WITH 58
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COMMUNIST- INITIATED INCIDENTS REPORTED COMPARED TO 48 THE PREVIOUS DAY. ONCE AGAIN, MUCH OF THE FIGHTING WAS CONCENTRATED IN CHUONG THIEN PROVINCE WHICH REPORTED 35 INCIDENTS. AMONG THE DELTA' S INCIDENTS WERE TWO GROUND ASSAULTS, 30 ATTACKS BY FIRE, 16 HARASSMENTS, AND A TERRORIST ACT. FRIENDLY LOSSES TOTALLED 17 KILLED, 78 WOUNDED AND TWO MISSING. THE VC/ NVA LOST 42 DEAD.

2. GROUND FIRE MAY 16 SEVERELY DAMANGED A 21 ST ARVN DIVISION HELICOPTER IN CHOUNG THIEN PROVINCE. THE PILOT MANAGED TO MAKE IT BACK TO WITHIN A FEW HUNDRED YARDS OF VI THANH BEFORE CRASHING INTO A RICE FIELD, SEVERELY INJURING THE SEVEN MEN ABOARD. AN ICCS TEAM WAS ON THE SCENE INVESTIGATING THE EARLIER ROCKETING OF VI THANH. CANDIAN AND INDONESIAN MEMBERS WANTED TO INSPECT THE BULLET- POKED HELICOPTER CARCASS BUT THE POLES AND HUNGARIANS REFUSED.

3. IN THE SENSITIVE HONG NGU- CAMBODIAN BORDER AREA, NVA FORCES ARE ON THE MOVE. NVA 5 TH DIVISION FORCES, PREVIOUSLY ESTIMATED READYING FOR OFFENSIVE OPERATION IN GVN MR III, SEEM NOW TO BE MOVING TO THE CAMBODIAN SIDE OF THE HONG NGU BORDER. THE 5 TH' S E-2 REGIMENT, A PARTICIPANT IN THE APRIL HONG NGU CAMPAIGN, REMAINS IN PLACE BUT MAY HAVE DISPATCHED SEVERAL BATTALIONS FOR MEKONG RIVER INTERDICTION. THE E-1 IS SWINGING OVER TO JOIN THE E 2. THE E-3 CONTINUES TO PRESS ITS WITHDRAWAL TO CAMBODIA UP THE CAI CAI CANAL SYSTEM. OF THE OTHER PARTICIPANTS IN THE APRIL HONG NGU FIGHT, THE NVA 9 - B DIVISION' S E-272 REGIMENT MAY HAVE WITHDRAWN FOUR KILOMETERS SOUTH OF THE KOMPONG TRABEK. THE O- B' S E-207 IS STILL IN THE HONG NGU AREA AND COULD BE WAITING FOR THE ARRIVAL OF THE E-3 BEFORE REJOINING OTHER 9 - B FORCES. SUBSTANTIAL ARTILLERY UNITS -- MORTAR AND ROCKETS-- REMAIN ABOVE THE BORDER.
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